

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 10-16 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. Claim 1 is sought to be amended. These changes introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Support for this amendment can be found at p. 12 of the specification.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,533,145 (“Shofner”) in view of U.S. Patent 5,394,591 (“Jornot”). Claim 1 has been amended to state that the closed circuit includes an electronic machine control device and electronic image evaluating unit, wherein the electronic machine control device utilizes results of the electronic image evaluating unit to control and optimize parameters of a drafting process via the closed circuit, said parameters comprising at least one of speed and friction of the sliver. The feature of a closed circuit through which the speed and/or friction of the sliver are controlled and optimized on the basis of image evaluation is not disclosed in either Shofner or Jornot.

Shofner describes an imaging apparatus in conjunction with textile processing, where images are analyzed to find “entities of interest in the web” such as foreign particles (See abstract, Shofner). There is no disclosure in Shofner of a closed circuit through which the speed and/or friction of the sliver are controlled and optimized on the basis of image evaluation. Jornot discloses an apparatus for sensing various attributes of a sliver. But Jornot does not disclose the use of optical means to do so. Jornot does not disclose the use of a camera and does not disclose a closed circuit through which the speed and/or friction of the sliver are controlled and optimized on the basis of image evaluation. Therefore, neither Jornot nor Shofner disclose the use of a closed circuit through which the speed and/or friction of the sliver are controlled and optimized on the basis of image evaluation. Because this feature is disclosed in neither Jornot nor Shofner, claim 1 is not rendered obvious by any reasonable combination of these references.

Because the remaining claims all depend from claim 1, these dependent claims necessarily incorporate all features of claim 1. Claim 1 includes a feature that is lacking in any reasonable combination of Shofner and Jornot, and claims 2-5, 7, 8, and 10-16 likewise include this feature. These claims are therefore not rendered obvious by any reasonable combination of Shofner and Jornot.

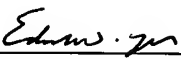
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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